

**FINAL
DECISION DOCUMENT FOR THE
FORMER RIFLE/MACHINE GUN RANGE, PARCEL 104Q
FORT McCLELLAN, CALHOUN COUNTY, ALABAMA**

ISSUED BY: THE U. S. ARMY

AUGUST 2005

**U.S. ARMY ANNOUNCES
DECISION DOCUMENT**

This Decision Document presents the determination that no further remedial action will be necessary to protect human health and the environment at the Former Rifle/Machine Gun Range, Parcel 104Q, at Fort McClellan (FTMC) in Calhoun County, Alabama. In addition, this Decision Document provides the site background information used as the basis for the no further action decision with regard to hazardous substances regulated under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). The location of the parcel at FTMC is shown on Figure 1.

This Decision Document is issued by the U.S. Army Garrison at FTMC with involvement by the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Cleanup Team (BCT). The BCT consists of representatives from the U.S. Army, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 4, and the Alabama Department of Environmental Management. The BCT is responsible for planning and implementing environmental investigations at FTMC.

Based on the results of the site investigation (SI) completed at the Former Rifle/Machine Gun Range, Parcel 104Q, the U.S. Army will implement no further action at the site with regard to CERCLA-related hazardous substances. This decision was made by the U.S. Army with concurrence by the BCT.

This Decision Document summarizes site information presented in detail in background documents that are part of the administrative record for the Former Rifle/Machine Gun Range, Parcel 104Q. The background documents for Parcel 104Q are listed on Page 2 and are available at the public repositories listed on Page 3.

**REGULATIONS GOVERNING
SITE**

FTMC is undergoing closure by the BRAC Commission under Public Laws 100-526 and 101-510. The 1990 Base Closure Act, Public Law 101-510, established the process by which U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) installations would be closed or realigned. The BRAC Environmental Restoration Program requires investigation and cleanup of federal properties prior to transfer to the public domain.

In addition, the Community Environmental Response Facilitation Act (CERFA), Public Law 102-426, requires federal agencies to identify real property on military installations scheduled for closure that can be transferred to the public for redevelopment or reuse. Consequently, the U.S. Army is conducting environmental studies of the impact of suspected contaminants at parcels at FTMC. The BRAC Environmental Restoration Program at FTMC follows the CERCLA process.

SITE BACKGROUND

FTMC is located in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains of northeastern Alabama near the cities of Anniston and Weaver in Calhoun County. FTMC consists of two main areas of government-owned properties: the Main Post and Pelham Range. Until May 1998, the FTMC installation also included the Choccolocco Corridor, a 4,488-acre tract of land that was leased from the State of Alabama. The Main Post, which occupies 18,929 acres, is bounded on the east by the Choccolocco Corridor, which previously connected the Main Post with the Talladega National Forest. Pelham Range, which occupies 22,245 acres, is located approximately 5 miles due west of

PRIMARY BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS FOR PARCEL 104Q

EDAW, Inc., 1997, *Fort McClellan Comprehensive Reuse Plan, Fort McClellan Reuse and Redevelopment Authority of Alabama*, November; Fort McClellan, Updated Reuse Map, Rev. March 2000.

Environmental Science and Engineering, Inc. (ESE), 1998, *Final Environmental Baseline Survey, Fort McClellan, Alabama*, prepared for U.S. Army Environmental Center, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, January.

IT Corporation, 2000, *Final Human Health and Ecological Screening Values and PAH Background Summary Report, Fort McClellan, Calhoun County, Alabama*, July.

Science Applications International Corporation, 1998, *Final Background Metals Survey Report, Fort McClellan, Alabama*, July.

Shaw Environmental, Inc. (Shaw), 2005, *Final Site Investigation Report, Former Rifle/Machine Gun Range, Parcel 104Q, Fort McClellan, Calhoun County, Alabama*, August.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 2001, *Archives Search Report Maps (Revision 1), Fort McClellan, Anniston, Alabama*, September.

the Main Post and adjoins the Anniston Army Depot on the southwest.

The Former Rifle/Machine Gun Range, Parcel 104Q, is located east of Goode Road in the northwestern portion of the FTMC Main Post (Figure 1). The *Final Environmental Baseline Survey, Fort McClellan, Alabama* (EBS) documents this site as one of seven former rifle/machine gun ranges identified in the northern Main Post (ESE, 1998). Parcel 104Q covers approximately 12 acres, with the firing line area along the northern parcel boundary.

In the *Archives Search Report* (ASR), the Former Rifle/Machine Gun Range, Parcel 104Q, is referred to as World War I Machine Gun Range. The ASR states this range was built during World War I and was abandoned sometime prior to World War II. There is no indication that

explosive ordnance was used on the range (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 2001).

During SI site walks conducted in December 2001, features consistent with use of the area as a small-arms range were observed. A series of partially eroded berms (approximately 3 feet high) transect the width of the parcel at approximately 75-foot intervals throughout much of the parcel (Figure 1). Signs mounted on trees mark the endpoints of some of the berms, which appear to be target areas. Several small, shallow depressions – possible foxholes or target bunkers – are present in the northern and southern portions of the parcel.

SCOPE AND ROLE OF PARCEL

Information developed from the EBS was used to group areas at FTMC into standardized parcel

categories using DOD guidance. All parcels received a parcel designation for one of seven CERFA categories or a non-CERCLA qualifier designation, as appropriate. Parcel 104Q was categorized as a CERFA Category 1 Qualified parcel in the EBS. CERFA Category 1 Qualified parcels are areas that have no evidence of CERCLA-related hazardous substance or petroleum product storage, release, or disposal, but do have other environmental or safety concerns (ESE, 1998). Parcel 104Q was qualified because of the potential presence of chemicals of potential concern (e.g., lead) as a result of historical range activities.

With the issuance of this Decision Document, Parcel 104Q will remain a CERFA Category 1 Qualified parcel.

**PUBLIC INFORMATION REPOSITORIES
FOR FORT McCLELLAN**

Anniston Calhoun County Public Library

Reference Section

Anniston, Alabama 36201

Point of Contact: Ms. Sunny Addison

Telephone: (256) 237-8501

Fax: (256) 238-0474

Hours of Operation: Monday – Friday 9:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Sunday 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Houston Cole Library

9th Floor

Jacksonville State University

700 Pelham Road

Jacksonville, Alabama 36265

Point of Contact: Ms. Paula Barnett-Ellis (256) 782-5249

Hours of Operation: Monday – Thursday 7:30 a.m. – 11:00 p.m.

Friday 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Sunday 3:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.

SITE INVESTIGATION

An SI was conducted at the Former Rifle/Machine Gun Range, Parcel 104Q, to determine whether chemical constituents are present at the site as a result of historical mission-related Army activities (Shaw, 2005). The SI consisted of the collection of 22 surface soil samples, 22 subsurface soil samples, and 2 groundwater samples. Groundwater samples were collected from two monitoring wells installed at the site during the SI. All samples were analyzed for metals and explosives compounds; approximately ten percent of the samples were analyzed for a broader list of constituents, including volatile organic compounds (VOC), semivolatiles

organic compounds (SVOC), pesticides, and herbicides.

Metals, VOCs, pesticides, and one herbicide compound were detected in site media. SVOCs and explosive compounds were not detected in any of the samples collected at the site. To evaluate whether the detected constituents present an unacceptable risk to human health and the environment, the analytical results were compared to human health site-specific screening levels (SSSL) and ecological screening values (ESV) for FTMC (IT Corporation, 2000). The SSSLs and ESVs were developed as part of human health and ecological risk evaluations associated with investigations performed under the BRAC Environmental Restoration Program at FTMC. Additionally,

metals concentrations exceeding SSSLs and ESVs were compared to background screening values (Science Applications International Corporation, 1998). Site metals data were further evaluated using statistical and geochemical methods to determine if the metals detected in site samples were naturally occurring or if they contained a component of contamination. A preliminary human health risk assessment (PRA) and a preliminary ecological risk assessment (PERA) were also performed to further characterize potential human health and ecological risks.

All metals in soil and groundwater were determined to be present at naturally occurring levels based on the statistical and geochemical evaluation. The organic chemicals

detected in site media were present at concentrations below their SSSLs. Therefore, no constituents were selected as chemicals of potential concern in the PRA. The PRA concluded that exposure to site media does not pose a threat to human health.

The PERA initially identified three pesticides (4,4'-DDT, dieldrin, and endrin) and one herbicide (MCPA) as constituents of potential ecological concern (COPEC) in surface soil. Upon consideration of additional evidence, including frequency of detection and the conservative nature of the ESVs, the PERA determined that these chemicals should not be retained as COPECs. The PERA concluded that these compounds are unlikely to pose a risk to ecological receptors.

SITE REMEDIAL ACTIONS

Remedial actions were not conducted at the Former Rifle/Machine Gun Range, Parcel 104Q.

DESCRIPTION OF NO FURTHER ACTION

Remedial alternatives were not developed for Parcel 104Q. No further action is selected because remedial action for CERCLA-related hazardous substances is unnecessary to protect human health and the environment at this site. The metals and chemical compounds detected in site media do not pose an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment. Therefore, the site is released for unrestricted land reuse with regard to CERCLA-related hazardous substances. With regard to CERCLA-related hazardous substances, the U.S. Army will not take any further action to investigate, remediate, or monitor the Former Rifle/Machine Gun Range, Parcel 104Q. There are no costs associated with the no-action alternative.

DECLARATION

Remedial action for CERCLA-related hazardous substances is unnecessary at the Former Rifle/Machine Gun Range, Parcel 104Q. The no further action remedy protects human health and

the environment, complies with relevant federal and state regulations, and is a cost-effective application of public funds. This remedy will not leave in place hazardous substances at concentrations that require limiting the future use of the parcel or that require land-use control restrictions. The site is released for unrestricted land reuse with regard to CERCLA-related hazardous substances. There are no remedial costs associated with implementing no further action for CERCLA-related hazardous substances at the Former Rifle/Machine Gun Range, Parcel 104Q.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Any questions or comments concerning this Decision Document or other documents in the administrative record can be directed to:

Mr. Ronald M. Levy
Fort McClellan BRAC
Environmental Coordinator
Tel: (256) 848-6853

E-mail: ron.levy@us.army.mil

ACRONYMS

ASR	Archives Search Report
BCT	BRAC Cleanup Team
BRAC	Base Realignment and Closure
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
CERFA	Community Environmental Response Facilitation Act
COPEC	constituent of potential ecological concern
DOD	U.S. Department of Defense
EBS	Environmental Baseline Survey
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
ESE	Environmental Science and Engineering, Inc.
ESV	ecological screening value
FTMC	Fort McClellan
PERA	preliminary ecological risk assessment
PRA	preliminary human health risk assessment
SI	site investigation
SSSL	site-specific screening level
SVOC	semivolatile organic compound
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
VOC	volatile organic compound

Prepared under direction of:

Lee D. Coker
Environmental Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District
Mobile, Alabama

Date

Reviewed by:

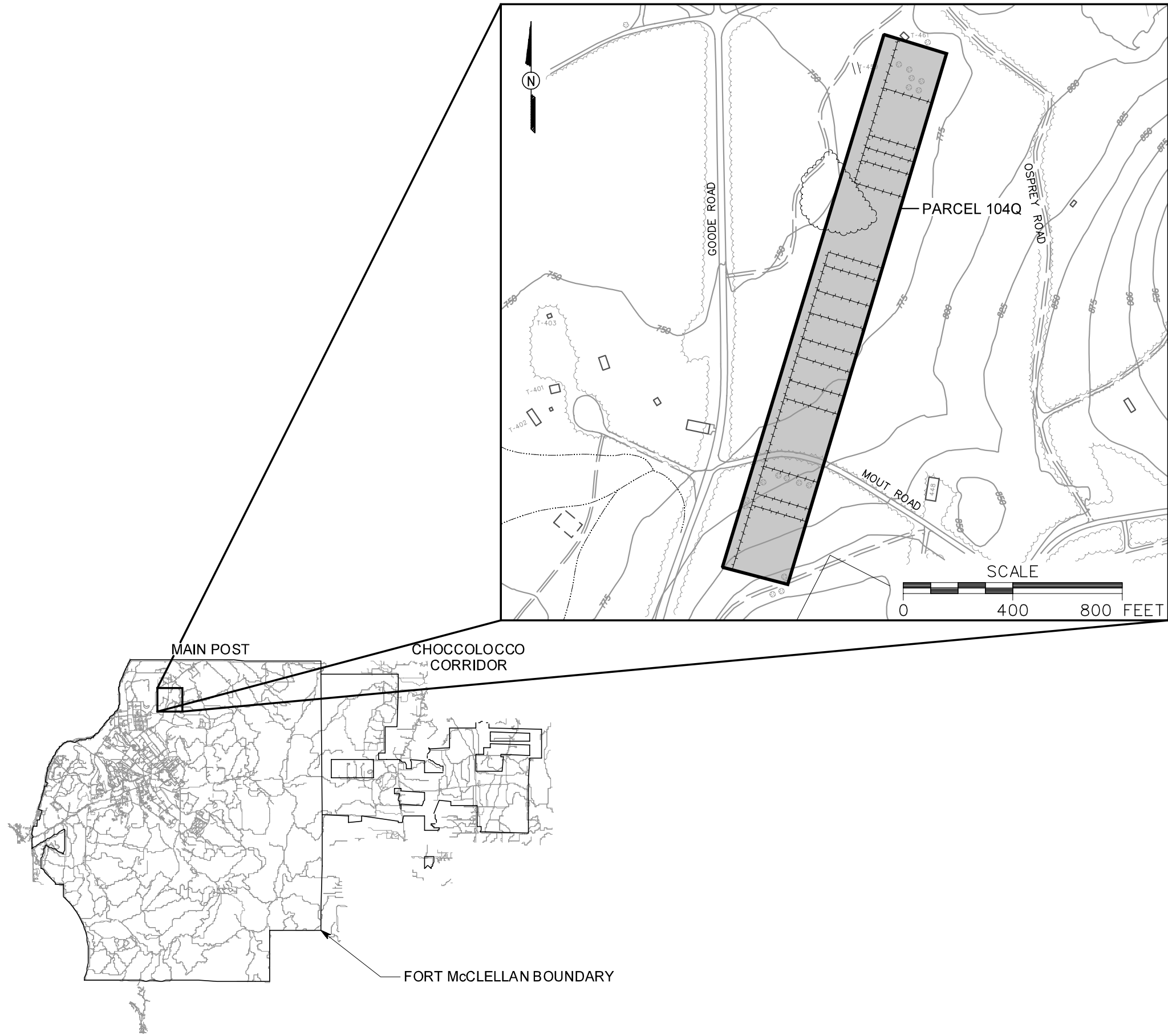
Ronald M. Levy
BRAC Environmental Coordinator
Fort McClellan, Alabama

Date

Approved by:

Gary E. Harvey
Site Manager
Fort McClellan, Alabama

Date



LEGEND

- UNIMPROVED ROAD
- PAVED ROAD AND PARKING
- BUILDING
- TOPOGRAPHIC CONTOUR (CONTOUR INTERVAL - 25 FOOT)
- TREES / TREELINE
- PARCEL BOUNDARY
- SURFACE DRAINAGE / CREEK
- BERM
- DEPRESSION

FIGURE 1
SITE LOCATION MAP
FORMER RIFLE/MACHINE GUN RANGE
PARCEL 104Q

U. S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
MOBILE DISTRICT
FORT McCLELLAN
CALHOUN COUNTY, ALABAMA
Contract No. DACA21-96-D-0018